



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/684,911	10/14/2003	Herbert M. Reynolds	60598-006	3555
27305	7590	12/03/2004	EXAMINER	
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C. THE PINEHURST OFFICE CENTER, SUITE #101 39400 WOODWARD AVENUE BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5151			RAEVIS, ROBERT R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2856	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

APC

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/684,911	REYNOLDS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert R. Raevs	2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 117 and 118 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 117, 118 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 117,118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kaptur, Jr. et al.

Kaptur et al teach a device to check whether the seat of a vehicle is satisfactory for accommodation by an occupant (see col. 1, lines 10-15), the device including: back pan and seat pan 66 that collectively simulate the torso of the occupant, the outer contour located on the torso, the outer contour 68 of the torso conforming to a deformed shape of an interface contour between a seat and a seated occupant as viewed in Figure 1. The device includes legs and feet, the torso of which is located relative thereto. The device is used as a geometric checking device, and thus is a template. The device is applied to determining if the compressibility of the seat should be changed. (col. 4, lines 70-75)

Kaptur does not state that the device is employed in "design".

As to claims 117,118, either the determination of if the compressibility of the seat should be changed is inherently design, suggestive that the device is a design template; or it would have been obvious to use determinations of the device to change the design of vehicles to be constructed to increase accommodation and comfort of the occupants of vehicle in future vehicles because it is known to improve new models relative to existing models.

Claims 117,118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over AUTO (SU 0508711).

Auto teaches a device to measure dimensional parameters within a vehicle, comprising (Figure 1): a torso 2,4, the outer contour of the torso conforming to a deformed shape of an interface contour between a seat and occupant as shown in Figure 6. The device is used in "motor car anthropometry", anthropometry being the study and technique of human body measurement for use in anthropological classification and comparison, suggestive that the device is used as a gauge or template.

The Constitution of Auto does not use the term "design".

As to claims 117,118, either the device is inherently employed to design vehicles, or in the alternative, it would have been obvious to redesign vehicles to be subsequently manufactured according to measurements made with Auto's device, to allow for more occupant space or even a safer vehicle to remove/relocate possible points of impact.

As to Applicant's REMARKS, please consider the following:

As to p. 4, second paragraph, please look at Figure 1 of Kaptur. In that figure, both the back pan 108 and the outer surface 68 of the seat pan 66 have contours that match (or conform, if you will) that of the interface of the deformed seat 10,16 and torso 66,108. As to contours match, the shape of the pan108/surface68 does conform to a deformed shape of an interface contour between a seat and a seated occupant.

As to p. 4, 5th full paragraph; please look at Figure 6 of AUTO. The torso 2,4 very much represents the deformed shape of an interface, as exhibited by the plainly visible deformed portion of the back of the seat.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert R. Raevis whose telephone number is 571-272-2204. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:30am to 3:30pm. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RR
RAEVIS